

OPTIMUS HEALTH CARE

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F (203) 339-7577

www.optimushealthcare.org

Other sites:

**Bridgeport Community
Health Center**
471 Barnum Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06608
T (203) 333-6864
F (203) 332-0376

Chase Wellness Center
1071 East Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608
T (203) 330-2783

**Ralphola Taylor
Community Health Center**
790 Central Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607
T (203) 332-4567

**Park City Primary
Care Center**
64 Black Rock Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06605
T (203) 579-6000

**Hollow Community
Health Center**
82 George Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
T (203) 576-3881

Main Street Pediatrics
3180 Main Street, Suite G-1
Bridgeport, CT 06606
T (203) 371-7111

**Stamford Community
Health Center**
805 Atlantic Street
Stamford, CT 06902
T (203) 327-5111

Outpatient Clinics
1351 Washington Blvd
Stamford, CT 06902
T (203) 621-3700

**Stratford Community
Health Center**
727 Honeyspot Road
Stratford, CT 06615
T (203) 375-7242

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Chairman of the Board

Ludwig M. Spinelli
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Dear Member of the Appropriation Committee:

I am responding to two distinct reductions in services that will impact Optimus Health Care, Inc. and patient care services in Southwestern Connecticut. First is the Department of Public Health's cut to Community Health Services line items, and the second is the elimination of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services support to Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and hospitals. In each case the premise is that the new Low Income Adult (LIA) reimbursement will offset the need for support. Sadly, this is not based on accurate information and the premise is not correct.

On the Department of Public Health side, Optimus would have to eliminate at least two primary care clinical teams which provide an estimated 10,000 visits per year in an area designated by Health and Human Services, as medically under serviced or in a health professional shortage area in Bridgeport, Stamford and Stratford.

FQHCs have four decades of experience as the comprehensive safety net provider offering medical, dental and behavioral health services. The State

Department of Public Health is well aware of the effectiveness of community health centers and the taxpayers dollars we save the system by reducing primary care services at the local emergency departments. In fact, the General Accounting Office named the community health center as one of the most cost efficient federal programs. Health Center generate revenue which is then returned to program services benefiting medical, dental and behavioral health patients.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services action would greatly strain the behavioral health safety net with no other services available in the out-patient as well as in-patient system. In the case of Optimus it would likely mean the closing of the Dorothy Bennett Behavioral Health Center in Stamford. This is one of Stamford's primary behavioral health providers leaving the F.S. Dubois as the sole provider. Other speakers today will detail the first hand loss of this \$637,000 grant to Optimus and the in-patient reduction to Stamford Hospital.

In summary, cuts to the FQHCs will only result in higher costs to Connecticut taxpayers.

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